

New Directions

Volume 15 | Issue 1

Article 1

1-1-1988

Notes

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Recommended Citation

Staff, Editorial (1988) "Notes," *New Directions*: Vol. 15: Iss. 1, Article 1.

Available at: <http://dh.howard.edu/newdirections/vol15/iss1/1>

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From the Editors Notebook

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CONGRATULATIONS! . . . BISON

Congratulations to Howard University's Bison football team and head coach Willie Jeffries for winning the 1987 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Championship.

As is widely known by now, the Bison clinched the much-coveted MEAC conference title because of superior performance throughout the season and by overwhelming Delaware State 12-7 at a final match which was played in Delaware.

The MEAC conference title is the first for the Bison, whose impressive 9-1 record this recent season has won the team (and some of its top players) national acclaim.

For example, *The New York Times* rated the Bison third in the nation among Division I-AA collegiate teams, after Holy Cross (11-0) and Appalachian State (9-2).

While the Bison confronted its opponents head on and won several times over, the team was dealt a setback by the denial of invitation to play in a post-season tournament. That denial came from the National Collegiate Athletic Association, specifically, from the association's four-man selection committee.

In the midst of championship victory celebrations, the Bison and the university were confronted with a new struggle that many people had not anticipated, particularly in view of the Bison's strong record and the MEAC title. This new fight is for fair play; it is against an inherent bias that has once again raised its ugly head.

The decision by the NCAA to exclude the Bison has stunned the players, their coaches, fans, university officials and independent observers. *The Washington Post* concluded in an editorial in its November 26 edition: "The 1987 Bison are good, and they deserved that run at a national championship. The selection committee was wrong to deny it to them."

Refusing to accept the NCAA decision quietly, the university has stood up heroically for what it believes to be right. It has filed a \$15 million damage suit against the NCAA and its selection committee.

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